



THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
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AND GYNECOLOGISTS

Michigan Section

Office of the Chair

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To the Honorable Chairman Callton and members of the House Health Policy Committee:

I represent the members of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists whose patients include women of reproductive age.

When one of our patients dies as a result of pregnancy it is an unimaginable tragedy. If a maternal death can be prevented we must take action. HB 4235 will allow us this opportunity.

A maternal death is a reflection of our health care system. Unfortunately, data from the Center for Disease Control indicate maternal deaths are under reported. By preventing one maternal death, we also prevent more than 1000 additional cases of a pregnancy complication which could result in death.

Therefore, it is imperative we glean as much information from the events surrounding each death as possible. We are fortunate in Michigan to have the longest standing committee which has been investigating these tragedies. Under our current system of voluntary reporting of maternal deaths we know that cases are getting missed and therefore not investigated by the experts on our mortality review committee.

HB4235 will help physicians who care for women to understand the root cause of maternal deaths in our State and thereby improve the delivery of health care to the woman we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Jones, MD, FACOG